

PUBLIC NOTICE. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is reevaluating the use of Arctic and Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuges by the Poker Flat Research Range as a component of its atmospheric research program. Currently, this use, in compliance with state and federal regulations, is allowed on the refuges.

Prior to reauthorizing this use, federal law requires the Service first determine that it is a compatible use. A compatible use is a proposed or existing wildlife-dependent recreational use, or any other use of a national wildlife refuge which, based on sound professional judgment, will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the National Wildlife Refuge System mission or the purposes of the national wildlife refuge. We develop a compatibility determination document to facilitate evaluation of such uses.

The Service would like to know what you think about continuing the refuge use described above. A compatibility determination has been drafted, and is available for a thirty-day public review and comment period. All comments received by January 9, 2005 will be considered in finalizing that determination. We hope to make a final decision on continuing these uses within thirty days following closure of the public comment period.

You can view the draft compatibility determination online at <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/index.htm> For more information contact Arctic Refuge, [arctic\\_refuge@fws.gov](mailto:arctic_refuge@fws.gov), 907.456.0250, or Yukon Flats Refuge, [yukonflats@fws.gov](mailto:yukonflats@fws.gov), 907.456.0440.